

LACDMH Launches New Whittier Mental Health Evaluation Team



On September 20, 2016 the Whittier Police Department launched the Whittier Mental Health Evaluation team (WMET) to address the growing need for mental health services in our community. In an effort to deliver mental health services to this increasing number of people in need, and to positively impact the community, the Whittier Police Department partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) to create WMET. This cooperative effort revolves around a co-response model that includes a licensed clinical social worker—provided by the LACDMH—and a sworn police officer provided by the Whittier Police Department to aid our patrol officers in handling calls for service involving persons who may be suffering from a mental health crisis or be in need of social services as well as building cooperative relationships with other service providers in the Whittier area.

While responding to critical in-progress incidents is a component of WMET's responsibilities, the team will address other mental health crisis situations and homeless outreach for individuals with mental health challenges throughout our community. Additionally, WMET will provide extensive follow up and case management for individuals with chronic mental illness, substance abuse, and homelessness. By addressing these concerns on a regular basis, WMET can help to alleviate the burden placed on patrol resources and provide expert assistance to those in need.